

CH-95

1910-1912

**Ernest E. Lyon House
Mason Springs vic.
Private**

The Ernest E. Lyon House occupies a 43-acre site on the east side of Mason Springs Road approximately one mile south of Mason Springs. The house, a modest 2-story frame Vernacular Victorian building, is surrounded by several domestic outbuildings. A historic tobacco barn that pre-dates the dwelling also occupies the property. The house retains many of its original exterior features, with only a few notable alterations. Standing atop a modest hill and set approximately fifty yards back from the main road, the T-shaped house is approached by a tree-lined dirt driveway.

This modest turn-of-the-century farm house and its collection of frame outbuildings are typical of the many rural farmsteads built in Charles County in the early 20th century. Its modest Vernacular Victorian architecture, collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and rural setting are common features of this form and period. The house and outbuildings remain much as they were when originally built, and reflect a rural agricultural lifestyle that predominated in Charles County throughout the first half of the 20th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-95

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Ernest E. Lyon House

common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number 5140 Mason Springs Rd. not for publication _____
city or town Indian Head vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20640

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
_____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
_____ district
_____ site
_____ structure
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-95

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/Processing</u>	<u>Tobacco barn</u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: poured concrete (infilled)

roof cross gable: pressed metal shingles

walls frame: asbestos shingles

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance 1910-1912

Significant Dates 1910-1912

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 42.82 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 5140 Masons Spring Road is designated as Parcel 100 on Map 21, Grid 13 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The dwelling at 5140 Masons Spring Road has been associated with Parcel 100, Map 21 since its construction between 1910 and 1912.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
 organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.15,1998
 street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
 city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner

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name Ernest E. Lyon c/o Rev. Carl Lyon
 street & number 12319 New Hampshire Ave telephone _____
 city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20904

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-95

Section 7 Page 1

E.E. Lyon House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The Ernest E. Lyon House occupies a 43-acre site on the east side of Mason Springs Road approximately one mile south of Mason Springs. The house, a modest 2-story frame Vernacular Victorian building, is surrounded by several domestic outbuildings. A historic tobacco barn that pre-dates the dwelling also occupies the property. The house retains much of its original exterior features, with only a few notable alterations. Standing atop a modest hill and set approximately fifty yards back from the main road, the T-shaped house is approached by a tree-lined dirt driveway. The site slopes down steeply just east of the dwelling, extending out into open fields broken by thickets of dense trees.

The dwelling consists of a 2-story, T-shaped frame structure with Victorian-era detailing. The house stands on a poured concrete pier foundation that has been infilled with concrete blocks. Covered in decorative pressed metal sheets, the cross-gable roof terminates in a boxed eave with cornice returns at the gable ends. Wood cornerboards define the building's edges. Two chimneys break the ridge line. Both are constructed of brick with decorative corbeled caps. A third exterior brick stove flue was added at the northeast corner of the house. A screened half-hipped roof porch occupies the southwest corner of the house. The porch is supported by Victorian-style turned wood posts. Two-over-two double-hung wood sash of late-19th century design occupies the window openings throughout the house. Square-edged flush wood moldings with slightly overhanging "ears" surround the windows and door openings.

The facade, or south and west elevations, contains one original window and a door on the south wall, and one window opening on the west wall on the first story. Above, the three original windows are vertically aligned with the bays below. The south gable end reveals that the house is one room deep and pierced at this end by two vertically aligned windows. The rear of the dwelling reveals some alterations. The first story contains two original windows, matched by two second story windows aligned above. However, at the north end of the rear elevation, an enclosed shed-roof porch was added. This shed addition is pierced by three modern 2/2 wood sash windows, two on its south side and one on its east elevation. In addition, its north end is lit by a small 4-light wood casement window. A single panel-and-light wood door opens into this enclosed porch. Other alterations to the rear elevation include the addition of a single 6/6 wood sash window with a thin wood casing near the northeast corner of the house.

Along the north wall of the house, a modern wood porch provides

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 2

E.E. Lyon House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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access to a single panel-and-light wood door on the west wing of the house. Otherwise, one original window pierces the first story and two pierce the second story wall. A pair of modern 2/2 wood sash windows have been added to the first story at the north gable end, while a single original window occupies the upper story of this same location.

While the house retains much of its original fabric, it has been altered by the application of asbestos shingles to the exterior walls, and the addition of metal shutters on all the windows. Furthermore, the pier foundation has been infilled with concrete block and the rear porch enclosed. Otherwise, the house retains much of its original appearance.

OUTBUILDINGS:

The domestic outbuildings associated with the Ernest E. Lyon House include a toolshed and a 1-story frame workshop that are likely contemporary with the house. The toolshed that stands directly behind the house is a small 1-story, 1-bay structure with a front gable roof clad in the same pressed metal sheets on the main house. The shed is set on a poured concrete foundation, and has a 5-panel wood door and exposed rafter tails.

The workshop, located just northeast of the house, consists of a 1-story, front gable frame building set on a poured concrete foundation and clad in wood weatherboard. The roof is covered in pressed metal sheets, like the house. A 6/6 double-hung wood sash window pierces the west elevation and a 1-story, 1-bay frame addition extends off the north side of the workshop. The addition appears to date to the mid-20th century.

A small board-and-batten frame goat shed stands still further northeast of the house. This shed is a post-in-ground structure with a sloping shed roof and asphalt shingled roof. This building likely dates to the first half of the 20th century.

The only other building on the property is a ruinous tobacco barn located down the slope behind the house. This building consists of a 1-story frame barn dating to the second or third quarter of the 19th century. The structure consists of unhewn posts set directly in the ground that support a hewn plate and rafters. The posts are joined to the plate with mortises and tenons and pegged. The original building has a steeply pitched roof and a rectangular

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Section 7 Page 3

E.E. Lyon House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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block configuration. A large shed-roofed addition extends off the southeast side of the barn. The verticalboard cladding is circular sawn and the corrugated metal roof is a replacement. Overall, the barn is lightly framed and modest in size, indicating that it was used for drying small crops of tobacco.

In addition to these standing structures, the current resident of the E.E. Lyon House indicated that a slave burial site occupies a wooded hillside some two tenths of a mile southeast of the house. The site could not be properly inspected due to copious undergrowth obscuring the ground.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-95

Section 8 Page 1

E.E. Lyon House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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This modest turn-of-the-century farm house and its collection of frame outbuildings are typical of the many rural farmsteads built in Charles County in the early 20th century. Its modest Vernacular Victorian architecture, collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and rural setting are common features of this form and period. The house and outbuildings remain much as they were when built and reflect a rural agricultural lifestyle that predominated in Charles County through much of the first half of the 20th century.

During the late 19th and into the early 20th century, the County was predominantly rural and agricultural. Following the Civil War, the County underwent a long period of recession, with many of its wealthy farming families abandoning their lands and moving out of the area. Their large estates were slowly divided up among former tenant farmers into smaller farms, and cultivated with a more diverse array of crops, including grains, vegetables, and tobacco. By the early 20th century, many of these smaller farmsteads had become well established and their owners had acquired the means to construct relatively substantial homes.

The Lyon House is a good example of an early 20th century farmstead in Charles County. The buildings retain much of their original fabric and remain in nearly their original form. Their architectural expression follows the Vernacular Victorian style, popular in rural areas well into the first decade of the 20th century. In addition, the presence of a 19th century tobacco barn, and potential slave burial site, indicates that the site has long been occupied and cultivated.

In 1908, Ernest E. Lyon purchased 9 acres of land from M. Genevieve Green for \$75. The land was a portion of an estate known as "Retreat," which M. Genevieve had inherited from Ferdinand T. Maddox. Ernest grew up across the street at the house of his father and mother, Joseph W. & Ellen A. Lyon (5165 Mason Springs Road), and moved to his new house with his wife, Ella, sometime after 1908. He continued to add to his property over the years, acquiring one acre in 1912 from his parents, another parcel by inheritance from his father in 1923, and a third 3-acre tract in 1946. The land has remained in the ownership of the Lyon family ever since, passing to Ernest E. Lyon's sons, Leonard, Ellis, and the Reverend E. Carl Lyon. Leonard Lyon, born in 1919 at his father's house, continues to reside there.

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Inventory No. CH-95

E.E. Lyon House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-
1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/Tobacco barn

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-95

E.E. Lyon House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Chain of Title:

Parcel A:

May 30, 1908: M. Genevieve Green to Ernest E. Lyon
\$75.00
9 acres, Part of the estate known as
"Retreat" bequethed to Genevieve
Green by will of Ferdinand T. Maddox
Charles County Land Records
Liber FDM 19 Folio 195

Parcel B:

April 27, 1912: Ellen A. & Joseph W. Lyon to Ernest
E. Lyon
1 acres, East side of public road,
called part of "Hopewell"
Charles County Land Records
Liber HCC 24 Folio 495

Parcel C:

May 21, 1946: George E. & Margaret E. Medley to
Ernest E. & Ella V. Lyon
3 acres, Part of the inheritance of
Ernest E. Lyon from his mother Elen
A. Lyon (valued at \$60.00)
Charles County Land Records
Liber TBM 83 Folio 286

Parcel D:

August 4, 1942: Joseph W. Lyon to Ernest E. Lyon
Charles County Register of Wills
Liber REC 22 Folio 480

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E.E. Lyon House
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Parcels A, B, C, & D:

June 7, 1949:

Ernest & Ella Lyon to Mathilde Owen
4 lots:
Parcel A: 9 acres on east side of
state road, "Part of Retreat"
Parcel B: 1 acre, "Part of Hopewell"
Parcel C: 3 acres
Parcel D: East side state road,
inherited from father
Charles County Land Records
Liber 88 Folio 426

June 7, 1949:

Mathilde Owen to Ernest E. & Ella V.
Lyon
50 acres
4 lots near the state road leading
from Pisgah to Masons Spring
Charles County Land Records
Liber 88 Folio 428

RESOURCE
SKETCH MAP

10/98

E.E. LYON HOUSE
5140 Mason Springs Rd.
Mason Springs Vic.
Charles County, MD

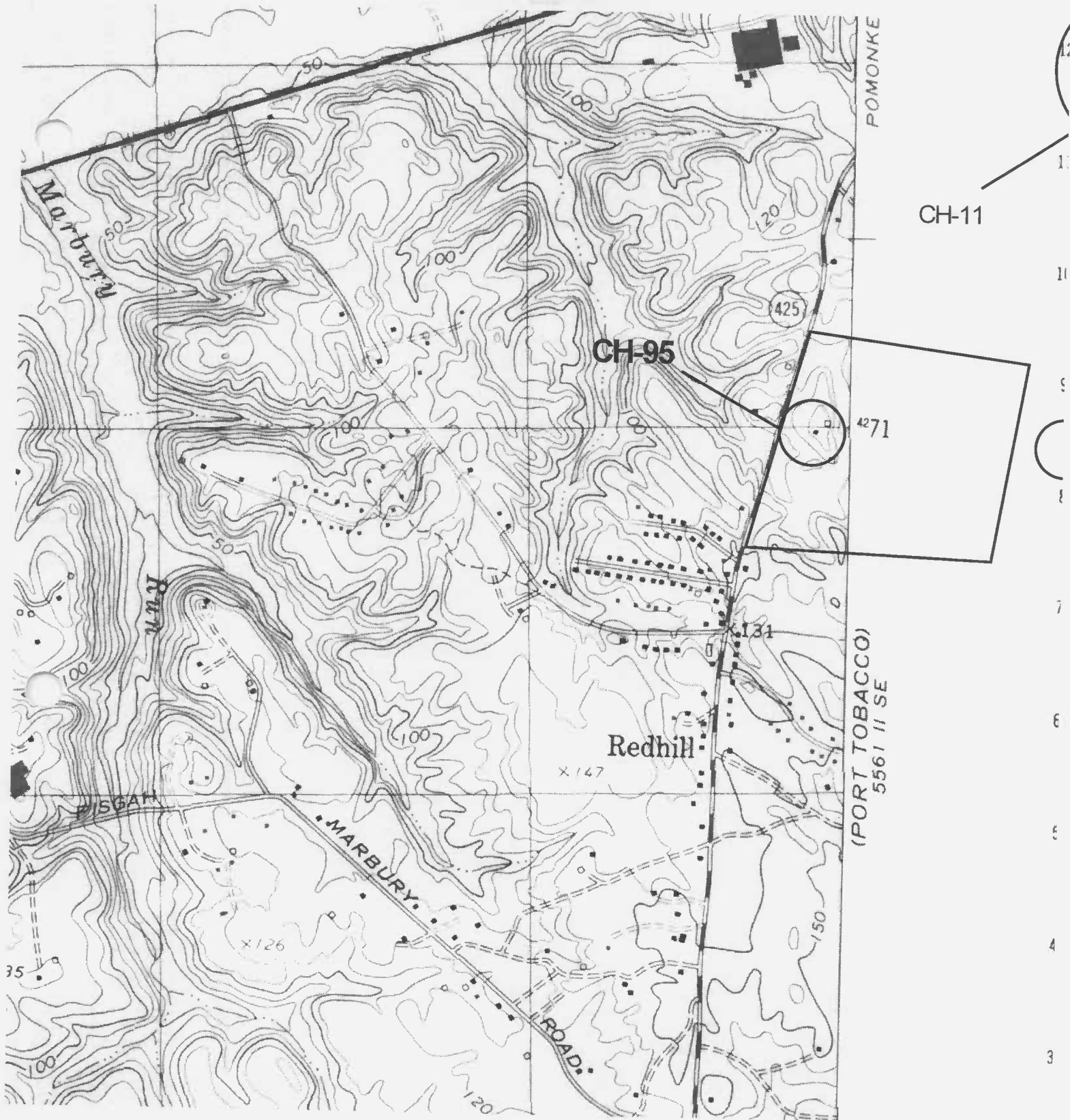
N ←

open
fields



Mason Springs Rd.

Not to Scale



E.E. Lyon House
Charles County, MD

INDIAN HEAD, MD QUAD

CH-95



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING NE

1 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING WEST

2 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SE

3 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

TOBACCO BARN - LOOKING NE

4 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, INTERIOR LOOKING NE

5 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

WORKSHOP, LOOKING NE

6 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

TOOLSHEED, LOOKING SE

7 OF 8



CH-95

E.E. LYON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

GOAT SHED, LOOKING NE

8 OF 8